

ON CASNONIA PICTA CHAUDOIR AND C. SUTURALIS CHAUDOIR.

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In 1848 Chaudoir described in the Moscow Bulletin *Casnonia picta* from California. Several years later in 1863 in the same publication he mentions the receipt of two Mexican specimens of this species from Sallé and also another specimen from California received from Reiche. This latter specimen, he says, differs from typical *picta* in having the elytra red, the suture, apex and an elongate lateral vitta near margin black, while typical *picta* have the elytra black with an abbreviated, suboblique humeral vitta and a postmedian rounded spot reddish. In 1872 he proposes the name *suturalis* for the former, stating that he had now altogether three specimens from the old Reiche collection and that it seems to be a constant form. He considers, however, that it is only a variety of *picta*.

In Henshaw's list of Coleoptera, *C. suturalis* Chaud. is listed as a variety of *pennsylvanica* and in our new Catalogue it is made a synonym of the latter species but in both *C. picta* is omitted, though both were described from North America.

Besides the different coloration of elytra *picta* was described by Chaudoir as differing from *pennsylvanica* in having "caput pone oculos minus elongatum, latius; thorax magis cylindricus, lateribus utroque apice minus sinuatis. Elytra paulo longiora, pone medium minus dilatata, etc."

A close examination and comparison of the head of *picta* and *suturalis* with that of *pennsylvanica* shows that in the latter the head is relatively narrower and apparently more elongate behind the eyes than in the former. The shape of thorax and elytra is variable but *picta* is a larger and more robust insect and must at least be accepted as a variety of *pennsylvanica*.

In regard to coloration *pennsylvanica* is apparently quite constant but *picta* is very variable in this respect. However, the most common form of the latter is marked like *pennsylvanica* but with the common sutural spot generally more elongate, those with a more or less distinct sutural vitta and the lateral and apical black markings confluent (*suturalis*) are rare, specimens with black or piceous elytra, reddish subhumeral vitta and submedian spot (*picta*) are apparently very rare, in fact, of the numerous speci-

mens from Texas and Arizona seen, only one specimen in the National Museum collection was of the latter form. Intermediate specimens showing more or less the extent of the black markings on the elytra are present in the material before me, though specimens from southern Texas seem to be less variable than those from Arizona. In view of this I think it is advisable to call all these *C. pennsylvanica* var. *picta* Chaud. with *suturalis* as synonym.

C. pennsylvanica is also recorded from Mexico in the Biologia but I think wrongly, the Mexican specimens marked like *pennsylvanica* which I have seen have the head and form of *picta*.

The California locality of Chaudoir's specimens is misleading. They were very likely collected in Texas or Arizona like *Amblychila piccolomini*, *Pasimachus californicus* and others to which Dr. Horn already has called attention.

For the loan of the excellent series of *Casnonia pennsylvanica* var. *picta* Chaud. in the National Museum I am indebted to Messrs. Schwarz and Barber. They are from several localities in Texas, Arizona and Mexico.